



19 January 2007

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Corps Support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

1. Purpose: Provide an overview of the Honolulu District's support to FEMA in disaster.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts. The National Response Plan (NRP) provides the framework for the implementation of coordinated local, state and federal assistance in disasters. The President appoints the lead federal responder, the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO). The NRP aligns the various agencies into 15 Emergency Support Functions. The Corps is the lead for ESF #3, Engineering and Public Works.

a. The Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is activated by the FEMA Regional Associate Director and is staffed by FEMA and those ESFs it deems appropriate for the particular response. Typically, the Corps is tasked to support the RRCC with an ESF #3 Management Cell. The RRCC initiates the initial missions or taskings to the Corps. These taskings, called Request For Assistance (RFA), and contain the mission scope, time for completion, and funding source. In conjunction with the affected state, FEMA establishes a Joint Field Office (JFO). Once the Federal Coordinating Official (FCO) is designated and the JFO is established, FEMA transfers tasking authority from the RRCC to the JFO.

b. The JFO is the unified [local, state, federal] hub for response. The Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR - in charge of the state response) is co-located with the FCO in the JFO. A JFO may remain open 6 months to 2 years.

c. The Division Forward. The Division Commander Forward (DCF) has overall responsibility for the Corps' FEMA assigned missions. The DCF commands the Recovery Field Office, RFO.

d. The ESF #3 Management Cell works for the Response Task Force/Director of Civil Works (DCW) and is responsible for scoping all FEMA missions assigned to the Corps, tasking the RFO to execute missions, and coordinating among the other state and federal agencies. The ESF #3 management Cell is composed of a team leader, assistant team leader, administrative assistant, and Action Officers/representatives from each mission PRT.

e. The RFO is a mini-District. It has the full capability to execute all FEMA assigned mission. Key staff to manage the response will come from a single District (i.e. POH for any response in our area of operation). The key staff is augmented by various Planning and Response Teams (PRT) and recruited individuals from across the Corps. Available Mission PRTs include: Water, Ice, Power, Debris, Temporary Roofing, Temporary Housing, Structural Safety, and Emergency Access. Available functional Subject Matter Experts [SME] or cadres include: Public Affairs, Real Estate, Resource Management, Human Resources, Logistics, Safety, Audit, Contracting, ENGLinnk, and Information Management. Additional resources are available through Corps-wide recruitment (typically Quality Assurance inspectors).